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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Extension Service  
Washington 25, D.C.

July 10, 1946

For your information

TO STATE LEADERS OF HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENTS:

Subject: National Home Food Preservation Week

The Secretary of Agriculture is designating the week of July 15 to 22 as National Home Food Preservation Week. This week was really designed to inaugurate the whole canning and food preservation season. You, of course, are aware that the need for producing and preserving food for home use is greater than during the war. This means that every possible resource must be used to the fullest. It means that a campaign for long season producing victory gardens and for canning and otherwise preserving garden and orchard produce, home grown or purchased, must be carried on with all possible leaders and forces cooperating. The record of home demonstration agents and of 4-H Club members in providing food during the war is one of which everyone can be most proud. Now, in view of the famine situations abroad, a repeat performance is necessary, one that will even beat the record of the war years.

These are some of the things which we think may need encouragement and help from you, your county extension agents, specialists in home food preservation and horticulture, the local leaders, home demonstration groups, women's clubs, garden clubs, and urban groups generally:

1. Fullest instruction and encouragement should be given to keep the gardens producing as long as possible during the season. This may be done by planting successive crops and where climatic conditions permit, having fall and winter gardens.
2. Can, brine, freeze or otherwise preserve for winter use, everything possible from these gardens and home fruit plantations.
3. Encourage the purchase of fruits and vegetables when market conditions are favorable for home canning, to increase the supply of winter foods.
4. Provide storage pits or house cellar storage for garden crops and fruits that may be safely stored for the fall and winter.
5. Organize local garden centers and food preservation groups providing instruction material and demonstrations.

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6. Encourage the fullest use of community and school canning centers. Last year 53 per cent of the nonfarm households and 46 percent of the farm households had not heard of community canning centers. Only 2 per cent of the nonfarm households and 4 per cent of the farm households did some canning at community centers.

The National Survey on Home Gardens and Food Preservation shows that 50 per cent of the nonfarm households and 41 per cent of the farm households canned less food in 1945 than the year before. We are sure, with the situations we now face, that much can be done to make more people realize the need for insuring a fuller supply of vegetables and fruits for home use this winter.

Sincerely yours,

H.W. Hochbaum, Chief  
Division of Field Coordination

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(Copy sent Extension Editors)